

Dear Honorable Members of the Children's Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 6329, AAC Dissection Choice.

The decision as to whether or not to kill (or pay another to kill), dismember and dissect another being is a personal one, and all people - including children - should be provided with the opportunity to opt-out of school assignments that require any of these actions.

Further, almost all medical schools have eliminated the use of animals in teaching, identifying dissection as "archaic" and replacing dissection with computer programs and other alternatives. Similarly, studies have shown that school children who use alternatives have been shown to grasp the learning objective better than those who dissect.

Besides, alternatives to dissection cost less than dissection.

Other neighboring states that have laws that allow kids to "opt-out" include Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, Maine, Vermont and New Jersey.

So, in short, I support HB 6329 because it opens the door to cheaper yet more effective teaching alternatives to a procedure considered unethical by many, and antiquated by our neighboring states and medical schools nationwide.

Sincerely,
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